

NOVEMBER 29, 2024



## WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

HIGH LEVEL CONSULTATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN  
HEALTH: CHALLENGES, ADAPTATION, AND POLICY PERSPECTIVES  
IN THE ASEAN REGION

**SUPPORTED BY**  
FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE, NEW DELHI

## Workshop Proceedings

### “High Level Consultation on Climate Change and Human Health: Challenges, Adaptation, and Policy Perspectives in the ASEAN Region”

Date: 29-11-2024 (Friday) | Time: 1230- 1500 ICT

Venue: Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok (Hybrid)

### Background

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi, India, along with ADPC, Bangkok, had organized a high-level consultation on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November, 2024 with a focus on climate change and human health challenges and responses in the ASEAN region, at the Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok, Thailand. The objective of the discussion was to share the findings of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) supported study on “Climate Change and Human Health: Challenges, Adaptation, and Policy Perspectives in the Indo-Pacific Region”. This includes findings for countries of Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, and Philippines.

The event was conducted in a hybrid mode and featured a post lunch session that included a presentation followed by a keynote address and a panel discussion. Nearly 30 people had joined the discussion. About 20 stakeholders from the region had participated in the in-person discussion, and 10 had joined virtually. This included participation from government officials, development partners, professional societies, academia, healthcare professionals and environmental experts. Participants shared research, recommended programs for a climate-resilient health system and discussed current responses to strengthen adaptation that are underway.

The workshop provided an opportunity to amplify outreach, foster interaction amongst stakeholders to assess adaptation, mitigation needs, identify policy recommendations to enhance the resilience of the health systems networks within countries in the region and provide an opportunity for sharing of experiences across countries.

## Objectives of the Roundtable Workshop

The objectives include:

1. Sharing evidence on the effects of climate change on health for the selected countries in south-east Asia, including Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, and Philippines.
2. Facilitating country and regional discussions to prioritize recommendations based on emerging evidence of good practices being followed in the Indo-Pacific region
3. Gathering narratives and examples of climate change adaptation and mitigation practices and tools used in the health sector to align with reported Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) in country plans.

## Inaugural Session

*Welcome and Opening remarks*

- **Mr Sam Beckwith**, Regional Director- Health, Southeast Asia, British Embassy Bangkok, FCDO
- **Mr Aslam Perwaiz**, Deputy Executive Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)
- **Dr Jaya Singh Verma**, Senior Policy and Programme Manager, South Asia Research Hub, and Indo-Pacific Regional Department, FCDO

**Emcee: Ms. Shivani Agrawal, Project Associate, TERI**

## Session Summary

Mr. Sam Beckwith expressed gratitude to all participants for their time, emphasizing the importance of strengthening outreach, fostering interaction amongst stakeholders for addressing mitigation and adaptation needs and discussing policy recommendations for enhancing the resilience of the health systems networks within countries in the south-east Asia region. He discussed the launch of the ASEAN UK Health Security Partnership program in the New Year, which will focus on understanding and acting on the health implications of climate change in Southeast Asia. He also highlighted the importance of policy briefs and the need for them to reach

policymakers and decision-makers, urging the stakeholders for exploring opportunities to amplify outreach. Dr. Jaya Singh Verma then introduced the Indo-Pacific Regional Department's work on climate and health, including a flagship program called Climate Action for Resilient Asia. She highlighted the growing body of evidence linking climate change to health impacts, particularly in developing countries, and the need for further research, capacity building, and integration of climate change into healthcare systems. Mr. Aslam Perwaiz discussed the study findings on climate change and human health adaptation and policy perspectives in the ASEAN region, with a focus on four countries. He then introduced Asian disaster Preparedness Center's work on emergency preparedness, capacity building and the impact of climate change on human health. The session concluded with an invitation for participants to share their thoughts on the study's findings and recommendations.

## Study Findings: Climate change and Human Health

Presentation by **Ms. Suruchi Bhadwal**, Senior Fellow & Director, TERI

Overarching presentation covering:

- Evidence on impacts and vulnerability in Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, and Philippines
- Examples of climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Recommendations

### Session Summary

After the inauguration ceremony, a presentation was done by Ms Suruchi Bhadwal to inform the participants of the evidence and the findings derived from the project for the four countries in concern.

It was highlighted that there has been limited work in the region with a focus on understanding the impacts of climate change on health including its integration of responses into country policies and plans. There are a few one-off examples in countries where related research has been conducted to understand these linkages and its impacts with links to policy. However, there are glaring gaps with regards to implementation and institutional capacities that are observed.

Exposure to climate risks that include slow-onset and sudden onset events was discussed causing health impacts. It was highlighted that the nature of impacts goes beyond immediate injuries, including the spread of vector borne diseases, water borne diseases, exposure to extremes of floods, heat, storms, severe air quality concerns etc., This further gets complicated due to the intricate interplay between climate change and health compounded by various mediating factors. The continued vulnerability of these countries for various developmental reasons was also highlighted. Differential vulnerabilities associated with social inequities and wellbeing within countries was highlighted targeting vulnerable groups and marginalized societies by way of geographical location, gender, age, disability, and economic status. The presentation delved into the challenges faced by health systems in the regions and spread the concerned countries, including insufficient healthcare workforce, increased private health expenditure, and concerns about overwhelmed health systems. Recommendations were provided by identifying thematic areas for action in these countries, with a focus on addressing heat-related illnesses, air pollution. This includes conducting climate-health vulnerability assessments, establishing low-carbon healthcare systems, and building resilience against extreme events and infectious diseases.

## Keynote Address: Planetary Health - The Interconnection Between Climate Change and Human Health in the ASEAN Region

Presentation by **Dr. Renzo Guinto**, Associate Professor, Global and Planetary Health, National University of Singapore





*Photo 1: The keynote address being delivered by Dr. Renzo Guinto*

## Session Summary

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Renzo Guinto on “Planetary Health: The Interconnection Between Climate Change and Human Health in the ASEAN Region”

He emphasized the need for a transdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach to address the challenges posed by climate change, which is just one aspect of the triple planetary crisis. He also highlighted the urgency of the situation, noting that six out of nine planetary boundaries have already been transgressed. He also discussed the concept of the "doughnut economy," which aims to balance ecological and social considerations for sustainable development.

Dr. Guinto stressed that climate change impacts all aspects of human health, and its consequences are a matter of equity and justice. He highlighted the disproportionate vulnerability of certain countries and regions to climate change's health effects, using the Philippines as an example. He also discussed the need for climate justice and the importance of considering climate change in pandemic response.

He converged on the effects of climate change on infectious diseases, heatwaves, sea level rise, and mental health, and suggested the need for a planetary health diet. He discussed the urgency of building health systems that consider the climate, emphasizing the need for sustainability and resilience. He highlighted the sources of greenhouse gas emissions

within the health sector and the importance of leadership in achieving environmental sustainability. He also discussed the concept of resilience in health systems, using the example of the WHO's operational framework for building climate resilient health systems. He emphasized the need to integrate a climate lens into global health interventions and to prioritize equity in climate and health responses. He also highlighted opportunities for embedding climate into existing global health agendas, such as universal healthcare and pandemic response. Dr. Guinto concluded by discussing the importance of national adaptation plans and the need for these discussions to trickle down to the subnational and local levels.

## Panel Discussion: Building Climate-Resilient Health approaches to include the most vulnerable communities: Strategies, Innovations, and Policy Pathways

**Moderator: Dr. Jaya Singh-Verma, FCDO**

*Panelists:*

- **Dr Duong Minh Duc**, Hanoi University of Public Health, Vietnam
- **Ms Indah Hidayat**, Ministry of Health, Indonesia
- **Dr Sanjay Srivastava**, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Thailand
- **Dr Niladri Gupta**, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Bangkok

## Session Summary



*Photo 2: Panel discussion with Dr. Jaya Singh-Verma as moderator and panelist Dr. Sanjay Shrivastava, Ms. Indah Hidayat, Dr. Duong Minh Duc and Dr. Niladri Gupta*

The panel discussion provided an opportunity for stakeholders to reflect on the presentations and share their feedback. Key takeaways from the discussion are summarized below:

**Dr Sanjay Srivastava**, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Thailand

Dr. Srivastava discussed the roadmap for integration of health into disaster risk reduction for overcoming the pertinent gaps. He highlighted the need for accurate, reliable, and comprehensive health data to support informed decision making and effective healthcare planning. He discussed the exemplar of Risk and Resilience Portal, under the Asia Pacific Disaster Resilience Network, which integrates hazard data, population data, and disease incidence data to provide a comprehensive view of the nexus of climate, disaster, and health.

**Dr Duong Minh Duc**, Hanoi University of Public Health, Vietnam

Dr Duc discussed the status of Vietnam's preparedness for climate change in the health sector. He highlighted that while there is a national action plan for climate change, the health sector's response has been insufficient due to a lack of local context, ineffective



coordination, and unclear responsibilities among ministries. He emphasized the need for training health professionals to recognize and address climate-related diseases and the importance of developing a healthcare system that is adaptive to local contexts. He emphasized the need for healthcare planning reforms, advocating for a shift from top-down approach to benefit the local context, especially in the context of Vietnam. He also highlighted the importance of capacity building, awareness, database, robust healthcare system at grassroots level and the subsequent strategies assumed by the Government of Vietnam for health system response, especially at the grassroots level. He also noted that Vietnam is committed to reducing emissions and improving its climate-resilient health systems, with a focus on cross-sectoral collaboration and strengthening organizational and human resource capacity.

**Ms Indah Hidayat**, Ministry of Health, Indonesia

Ms. Hidayat discussed the integrated, low carbon and sustainable health sector reforms needed in advancing towards the goal of Net Zero. She discussed the development and implementation of a vulnerability and adaptive capacity assessment for climate-sensitive diseases, including acute respiratory infection, dengue, malaria, and diarrhea. She highlighted the ongoing efforts in Indonesia to strengthen early warning systems, increase health and climate research, and implement climate-resilient sustainable technologies in healthcare facilities. She also mentioned the importance of collaboration between various sectors and the need for funding to increase resilience to climate variability and change in national or regional health investment plans. Furthermore, she touched on the Government of Indonesia's work in disaster risk reduction, including the development of business continuity plans for health infrastructure and capacity building for stakeholders, particularly vulnerable communities.

**Dr Niladri Gupta**, Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, Bangkok

Dr. Gupta highlighted the need for acknowledgement and inclusion of the needs of stakeholders, including the differently abled and mentally challenged in constituting the healthcare infrastructure and addressing the specific needs of these groups during extreme events. He laid emphasis on recognition of the problems associated with the exclusion of the marginalized communities such as the informal sector in healthcare planning and infrastructure development. He highlighted that the human resources are

available for service delivery, and there is a need for improvement of healthcare access and equity to enhance emergency preparedness and response for these groups. He highlighted the limitations to health data sharing and the need for strengthening the data integration mechanisms to support effective disaster response. He also discussed a dfat-funded project on urban heat impacts on vulnerable communities in cities. The project, funded by Stockholm Environment Institute and DFAT, involves working with the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, RMIT University, and Thailand Environmental Institute. The aim of the project to conduct a risk and vulnerability assessment of communities and identify areas with high urban heat islands. He also mentioned a partnership with the Asian Development Bank for a climate and health initiative and a low-cost housing project in Indonesia. He also shared experiences and initiatives related to climate change and health, including the Health National Adaptation Plan and the Clean and Clean Hospital project.

## Closing Remarks

### *Workshop Summary*

**Ms. Suruchi Bhadwal**, Senior Fellow and Director Center for Climate Change Research, TERI

In the closing remarks, Ms. Suruchi Bhadwal expressed gratitude to all participants for their patience and time, emphasizing the importance of building a strong network of institutions and improving access to resources.

## Annex 1

### Workshop Schedule

**Date:** November 29, 2024

**Venue:** Hotel Grand Hyatt Erawan, Bangkok, Thailand

Time	Session
12:30-13:00	Registration and Tea
13:00-13:15 (15 min)	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mr Sam Beckwith</b>, Regional Director- Health, Southeast Asia, British Embassy Bangkok, FCDO</li> <li>- <b>Mr Aslam Perwaiz</b>, Deputy Executive Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)</li> <li>- <b>Dr Jaya Singh Verma</b>, Senior Policy and Programme Manager, South Asia Research Hub, and Indo-Pacific Regional Department, FCDO</li> </ul>
13:15-13:20	Group photo session
13:20-13:40 (20 min)	<p>Study Findings: Climate Change and Human Health: Adaptation, and Policy Perspectives in the ASEAN Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ms Suruchi Bhadwal</b>, Senior Fellow &amp; Director, TERI</li> </ul>
13:40-14:00 (20 min)	<p>Keynote Address: Planetary Health: The Interconnection Between Climate Change and Human Health in the ASEAN Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Dr Renzo Guinto</b>: Associate Professor of Global and Planetary Health, National University of Singapore</li> </ul>
14:00-14:45 (45 min)	<p>Panel Discussion: Building Climate-Resilient Health approaches to include the most vulnerable communities: Strategies, Innovations, and Policy Pathways</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Dr Jaya Singh Verma</b>: Senior Policy and Programme Manager, Indo-Pacific Regional Department, FCDO</li> </ul> <p>Panellist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Dr Duong Minh Duc</b>, Hanoi University of Public Health, Vietnam</li> <li>- <b>Ms Indah Hidayat</b>, Ministry of Health, Indonesia</li> <li>- <b>Dr Sanjay Srivastava</b>, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Thailand</li> <li>- <b>Dr Niladri Gupta</b>, Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre, Bangkok</li> </ul>
14:45-14:55 (10 min)	<b>Floor Interventions:</b> Open floor for participant's questions and discussion.
14:55-15:00 (5 min)	<p><b>Closing:</b> Summary of key takeaways and follow-up actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ms Suruchi Bhadwal</b>, Senior Fellow &amp; Director, TERI</li> </ul>
15:00 onwards	<p>Networking tea</p> <p>Informal networking opportunity.</p>

## Annex 2

### List of Participants

Sl. No.	Name	Designation	Organization
1	Pol.Maj. Suriwan Thaiprayoon	Deputy Director of Global Health Division	Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health
2	Dr Chalump Oonariya	Meteorologist	Thailand Meteorological Department
3	Renzo Guinto	Associate Professor of Global and Planetary Health	Philippines
4	Dr Duong Minh Duc	Faculty of Social & Behavioural Sciences	Hanoi University of Public Health
5	Indah Hidayat	Senior Staff Directorate Environmental Health	Ministry of Health, Indonesia
6	Pan Piyasil	Lead National Expert (consultant) Climate and Health Co- Investment Facility Coordination Programme	UNDP
7	Dr Jaya Singh Verma	Senior Policy and Programme Manager, Indo- Pacific Regional Department, FCDO	British High Commission, New Delhi
8	Mr. Sam Beckwith	Regional Director, Health, SE Asia	British Embassy Bangkok, Thailand

9	Dr. Aslam Perwaiz	Deputy Executive Director	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
10	Dr. Niladri Gupta	Sr. Water Resources Management Specialist	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
11	Katevilai Nil-on	Sr. Administrative Co-ordinator	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
12	Ms Suruchi Bhadwal	Senior Fellow and Director	The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi
13	Ms Shivani Agrawal	Project Associate	The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi
14	Ms. Naiyana Chaitiamwong	Director of the Health Impact Assessment Division	Department of Health (DOH) - Online
15	Ms. Korwipa Punnasiri	Head of the Health Impact Assessment of Modern Hazard Group	Department of Health (DOH) - Online
16	Dr. Thiti Sawaengtham	Deputy Director	Department of Health (DOH) - Online
17	Harit Cheautong	Project Officer	Deutsche Gesellschaft fu?r Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
18	Dr. Sanjay Srivastava	Chief of Disaster Risk Reduction	UNESCAP
19	Ms. Suganya Yongkiettrakul	Researcher	NSTDA
20	Thankyaporn Wongtitimte	Researcher	TEI